

U.S., AN 'OCTOPUS,' RIDICULED IN IRAQ

Ex-Mayor Implicates C.I.A.
in Antiregime Intrigues

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Special to The New York Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq, June 8—An Arab scimitar slashes off a tentacle of a writhing octopus struggling to entwine itself around Iraq. The octopus is the United States.

A hand raises Uncle Sam's hat and exposes underneath Israel, cowering in fear.

Viewers of Iraqi television are exhorted to vigilance against the United States with these and similar propaganda messages shown at intervals between regular programs.

In the eyes of the revolutionary Baathist regime, the United States is the conspirator responsible for most of its troubles: fomenting unrest among the Kurdish minority in the north, collaborating with "treacherous political elements, recruiting spies throughout the country and, most invidious, inspiring Israeli expansionism.

C.I.A. Is Singled Out

The Central Intelligence Agency is depicted as the ever-active and sinister instrument of United States intrigues against Iraq.

Over the weekend, a retired army brigadier and former Mayor of Baghdad, Madhat al-Haj Sirri, confessed in a television interview that he had collaborated with the C.I.A. for nine years.

The brigadier, now under arrest, asserted that he was recruited in Beirut in 1960 by a correspondent of Time and Life magazines, Abu Said Aburish, to assist American spies and to organize a conspiratorial opposition bloc.

Mr. Sirri implicated the Kurdish leader, Gen. Mustafa al-Barzani, in the alleged C.I.A. activity, charging that the Kurdish insurgents had received arms and other support from the agency.

The former mayor is one of dozens of leading Iraqis arrested on charges of collusion with the intelligence agency against the Baathist regime of President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr.

Operations Described

Replying to questions in a calm voice and with occasional gestures, Mr. Sirri said that the espionage operations had been directed by an American named Phillip. Agents coming to Iraq, he continued, would telephone him with the message, "Phillip sends you his greetings."

Among the alleged spies who visited Baghdad, he said, were half a dozen persons posing as journalists, including a Mrs. Bert, a woman identified only as Anna, a man named Dixon and three others whose names he could not remember.

"My role was to protect them and to facilitate their affairs," he asserted.

The interviewer denied reports published abroad that another imprisoned Iraqi leader, former Premier Abdel Rahman al-Bazzaz, had died in prison of maltreatment. "Al-Bazzaz will one day appear on television making his confession," he said.

The vigilance campaign against alleged conspiracies of the C.I.A. is unsettling to the few Americans remaining in Iraq, mostly oil technicians, project engineers and an occasional businessman or journalist.

A visiting journalist who left Baghdad today, however, encountered no hostility or open suspicion and found officials of lower levels cordial although unwilling to discuss issues for publication.

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C.I.A.-Iraq
C.I.A.-03 Sirri, Madhat al-Haj.

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C.I.A.-03 Barzani, Mustafa